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CIA Reportedly Targeted Kadafi

CIA Director William J. Casey approved an agency scheme to topple Libya's Muammar Kadafi from power, it was reported yesterday.

But the House Select Committee on Intelligence, Newsweek magazine said, was so outraged by the plan that it sent a "strong letter of protest" to President Reagan.

Casey, Reagan's presidential campaign director, is currently facing an investigation into his past business dealings by the Senate Intelligence Committee.

Newsweek said Max Hugel, the CIA deputy director of covert operations who recently resigned after reports linked him with possibly illegal business practices, presented the agency plan to the House committee.

The CIA plan, according to the magazine, called for a "disinformation" campaign to embarrass Kadafi, the creation of a counter government to challenge his authority and a paramilitary campaign.

The House committee interpreted the agency's goal of "ultimately" removing Kadafi from power as a code word for his assassinating the Libyan strongman, Newsweek said.

Although Casey denied the plan included killing Kadafi, one source quoted by the magazine said the committee "just doesn't trust" the embattled CIA director.

An administration spokesman, according to Newsweek, said Reagan has not yet seen the committee's letter of protest because it is going through "the regular clearance process."

United Press International